

U.S. Application No. 09/937,163  
Reply to Office Action Mailed June 6, 2003

### Amendments to the Claims

#### Claims 1 – 15 (previously cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out wherein the said opening is punched out of in a packaging material;

coating said the packaging material is coated at least in the area of the said opening;

creating a package sleeve is created from the said packaging material;

conveying said package sleeve onto a (non-rotating) mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package; and

attaching a tear-open said tear-off strip is attached to the said opening in the said package sleeve,

and wherein the package sleeve is slid onto a mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling the package and

wherein said the tear-open tear-off strip is attached either at the said mandrel of the said mandrel wheel, or in the region of a pocket with the help of an anvil.

*new matter?*

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17. (**currently amended**) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said package sleeve is conveyed to the said filling machine in such a way that its opening points outward across the working direction of the said filling machine.

18. (**currently amended**) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said package sleeve is rotated about its longitudinal axis by approximately 90° between a magazine for accommodating prefabricated package sleeves on the said filling machine and the location where the said tear-off strip is attached.

19. (**currently amended**) A method according to Claim 16, wherein said mandrel wheel is driven in cycles and has at least two mandrels; and

wherein the said tear-off strip is applied between the mandrels of a mandrel wheel which is driven in cycles, the tear-off strip applied using at least one welding device which is inserted between said two mandrels and is retracted again after the said tear-off strip has been welded.

20. (**currently amended**) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said tear-off strip or a pouring element is applied upstream from an aseptic station of the said filling machine.

21. (**currently amended**) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the said tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by welding.

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22. **(currently amended)** A method according to Claim 21, wherein ~~the~~ said tear-off strip or a said pouring element is attached by ultrasonic welding or high-frequency welding.

23. **(currently amended)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ said tear-off strip or a pouring element is attached by gluing.

24. **(currently amended)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ said tear-off strip or a pouring element is pulled off from a supply roll having a plurality of tear-off strips or pouring elements.

25. **(currently amended)** A method according to Claim 24, wherein ~~the~~ said tear-off strip or ~~the~~ said pouring element is conveyed by means of feed rollers and is detached from ~~the~~ said supply roll by a cutting device.

26. **(currently amended)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ said tear-off strip consists of a tear-resistant aluminum strip.

27. **(currently amended)** A method according to Claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ said filling machine is a filling machine having multiple lanes.

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28. **(previously added)** A laminated package having an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, as produced by the method of Claim 16.

29. **(new)** A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out said opening in a packaging material;  
coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;  
creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;  
conveying said package sleeve onto a non-rotating mandrel of a mandrel wheel upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package; and  
attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve, wherein said package sleeve is rotated about its longitudinal axis by approximately 90° between a magazine for accommodating prefabricated package sleeves on said filling machine and the location where said tear-off strip is attached.

30. **(new)** A method of producing a laminated package with an opening that is sealed by a tear-off strip, said method comprising the steps of:

punching out said opening in a packaging material;  
coating said packaging material at least in the area of said opening;  
creating a package sleeve from said packaging material;

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conveying said package sleeve onto a mandrel of a mandrel wheel driven in cycles having at least two mandrels upstream from a filling machine for filling said laminated package; and

attaching said tear-off strip to said opening in said package sleeve, wherein said tear-off strip is applied using at least one welding device which is inserted between said two mandrels and is retracted again after said tear-off strip has been welded.

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